

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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LONDON FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO CARTER-DEMIREL AND DEMIREL-CLIFFORD
MEETINGS

1. PRESIDENT CARTER'S LONDON MEETING WITH PRIMIN DEMIREL
WAS DOMINANT FEATURE OF MAY 11 TURKISH PRESS. REPRESENTATIVE
HEADLINES:

-- PRO-GOVERNMENT TERCUMAN: "CARTER - 'ARMS SALES
CANNOT BE LINKED TO CYPRUS'."

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-- MASS CIRCULATION GUNAYDIN: "CARTER - THE
EMBARGO ON TURKEY WILL BE LIFTED SOON."

-- MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET: "CARTER ALSO SAID 'SOON'."

-- PRO-DEMIREL SON HAVADIS: "DEMIREL SAID TO CARTER 'WE DO
NOT NEED CHARITY'."

-- MODERATE MILLIYET: "CARTER: 'LINK CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN CYPRUS AND ARMS SALES'."

2. IN ADDITION TO STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF STATEMENTS BY BOTH LEADERS AFTER THEIR MEETING, PAPERS FEATURED VARIOUS "INSIDE" ACCOUNTS:

A. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ANATOLIAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) REPORTED THAT DEMIREL "BANGED ON THE TABLE WITH HIS FIST" DURING THE MEETING -- WHICH WAS HELD IN A "TENSE ATMOSPHERE" -- AND THAT DEMIREL STERNLY LECTURED ON THE NEED FOR THE U.S. TO GET OUT FROM BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AND TO TAKE A CLEAR-CUT STANCE. THE ANA ACCOUNT REPORTED DEMIREL'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESIDENT AS FOLLOWS: "MOVE OUT FROM BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPROVE GRECO-TURKISH RELATIONS UNTIL THIS IS DONE...WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM THE EMBAGO IN THE LAST TWO YEARS? TURKEY'S LOSS WILL NOT BE AS GREAT AS YOURS. TURKEY NEITHER WILL GIVE CONCESSIONS NOR BE DECEIVED BY TEMPORIZING TACTICS...IT IS A FACT THAT TURKEY NEEDS NATO, BUT NO ONE CAN DENY THAT TURKEY IS ALSO INDISPENSABLE TO NATO."

B. HURRIYET'S CUNEYT ARCAYUREK ALSO REPORTED THAT DEMIREL SPOKE FORCEFULLY. ARCAYUREK CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING AS "FRIENDLY ON THE SURFACE, BUT NOT SATISFACTORY." ARCAYUREK SAID PRESIDENT CARTE'S SEPARATION OF CYPRUS FROM THE EMBARGO WAS NOT SOMETHING NEW, AS REPRESENTED BY THE U.S. SIDE, BUT RATHER WAS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE FORD-KISSINGER UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICY.

C. GUNAYDIN REPORTED THAT DEMIREL TOLD BRITISH JOURNALISTS THAT "TURKEY WILL NOT STAY IN NATO AS A 'SECOND-CLASS ALLY'."

D. HURRIYET'S PRESTIGIOUS COLUMNIST, METIN TOKER, NOTED THAT DEMIREL'S STATEMENT TO CARTER AND THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE WERE REPLAYS OF LAST YEAR'S BRUSSELS MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND DEMIREL. TOKER CONCLUDES THAT "U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD TURKEY WILL NOT CHANGE BEFORE THE ELECTIONS" AND WILL BE RELATED TO THE STRENGTH OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. "THE ONLY WAY IT CAN BE SOLVED IS WITH A REPORT TELING CONGRESS THAT THERE IS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN CYPRUS. FORD WAS NOT PREPARED TO DO THIS AFTER BRUSSELS, NOR IS CARTER READY TO DO IT NOW."

E. MILLIYET'S M. ALI BIRAND REPORTED THAT "AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS EMERGED" IN THE MEETING.

PRESIDENT CARTER SAID, ACCORDING TO BIRAND, THAT "UNLESS THERE IS PROGRESS IN CYPRUS, THE EMBARGO CANNOT BE LIFTED". THIS POSITION WAS SAID TO HAVE CAUSED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG THE TURKISH DELEGATION. DEMIREL RESPONDED THAT "CY AND THE TURKISH-GREEK DISUTES CANNOT BE SOLVED IN THIS SITUATION". BIRAND CITED "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CLOSE TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING" AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF HEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE LINE OR ARGUMENT PRESENTED BY DEMIREL. MILLIYET ALSO REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, IN CONTRAST TO THE BRIEF STATEMENT AFTER HIS MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS, ANSWERED PRESS QUESTIONS AT LENGTH AFTER HIS MEETING WITH DEMIREL "WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ALLAYING THE WORRIES OF THE TURKISH PUBLIC."

3. HURRIYET'S CUNEYT ARCA YUREK ALSO GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF DEMIREL'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY CLIFFORD. REPORTING THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE U.S. HAD WANTED DEMIREL TO MEET WITH CLIFFORD PRIOR TO THE DEMIREL-CARTER MEETING, THE ARTICLE STATED THAT DEMIREL AND CAGLAYANGIL, ALTHOUGH INITIALLY STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE IDEA (SINCE CLIFFORD HAD PREVIOUSLY MET WITH GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS), FINALLY AGREED SINCE THEY THOUGHT THAT DEMIREL WOULD BE ABLE TO "GET A PICTURE" OF U.S. THINKING PRIOR TO MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO ARCA YUREK, "CLIFFORD LEFT DEMIREL'S ROOM IN THE HILTON HOTEL WITH A RED FACE." MACOMBER

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